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**MISSALETTE**

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*Fil-Mission Sunday*



# POSSESSING *the Treasure* BEYOND PRICE

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Author D. Williamson narrates the story of a little boy who got his hand into a precious vase. All efforts to get it out were ineffectual. As the parents painfully came to the conclusion that they would have to break the costly vase, the father told the boy, "Now try once more. Put all your fingers out straight and try again." "But then I'll drop my penny," said the boy.

From this simple narrative, the author draws a lesson which has a bearing on today's Gospel Reading: The love of money, which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, holds any person who might be free if he were willing to let go.

The parable of the Buried Treasure and that of the Pearl of Great Price give us a similar lesson: The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure beyond price. We must renounce all that may hinder us from possessing it.

The Kingdom of Heaven, as Jesus tells us, is the reign of God in our midst. We allow God to inspire and direct our lives, we live a life of communion with him, because we believe that God is the ultimate

meaning of our existence. We have been created by God for himself, and our hearts will be restless and empty if, by our own freewill, we choose to shut God off from our life.

There are many things that may hinder us from letting God be at the center of our lives. There is the human tendency to be a god unto oneself, that is, to be answerable to no one but to one's self. There are also the "treasures and attraction" of the world: money, power, pleasure. Many people are drawn to them because they easily satisfy the natural and physical cravings of human beings.

Earthly treasures which we call "mammon" can become an end to themselves. Mammon can replace the true God in our hearts.

Mammon is a false god because it enslaves the human heart, just as the hand of the boy is imprisoned inside a vase because he chooses not to let go of his money. Mammon is likewise a false god because it is ephemeral and cannot give lasting happiness. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches

his disciples: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth or decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Mt 6:19-20).

The Gospel parables are given a universal and timeless character in the story of the encounter between Jesus and the rich young man (Mt 19:16-24). Despite his wealth, the young man runs to Jesus and asks him how to gain eternal life because he is searching for life's full value and full meaning. He feels that he is good. In truth, he and the witness of his conscience are still not enough. He longs for "something more." And so, the Lord invites him to a deeper dimension of life to discover the treasure par excellence in following Jesus, which in this case entails that he sell his possessions. The young man is not able to answer; he "goes away sad," because he cannot "sell all" to buy the "fine pearl"—the Kingdom.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 68[67]:6–7, 36)

*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P**—The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit.

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P**—As Jesus taught us, we pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We want God to reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all men and women. Peace, love, joy, and justice are the values of God’s kingdom. God wants us to live and share these values.

Today, as we celebrate **Fil-Mission Sunday**, let us pray for the intentions of the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP) and Filipino missionaries sent all over the world, that they may continue to preach the Kingdom of God more boldly and courageously.

### Penitential Rite

**P**—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*(Pause)*

**P**—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All**—Lord, have mercy.

**P**—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All**—Christ, have mercy.

**P**—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All**—Lord, have mercy.

**P**—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All**—Amen.

## Gloria

**All**—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Collect

**P**—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All**—Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading

(1 Kgs 3:5, 7–12) *(Sit)*

*Solomon asks God for wisdom to govern his people well because he see the good of the people as the true treasure. The Lord grants his request and other things besides.*

### A reading from the first Book of Kings

THE LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon answered: “O LORD,

my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”

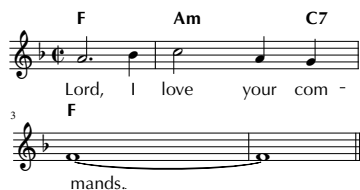
The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you.”

—The word of the Lord.

**All**—Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm (Ps 119)

**R**—Lord, I love your commands.



**1.** I have said, O LORD,/ that my part is to keep your words./ The law of your mouth is to me more precious/ than thousands of gold and silver pieces. **(R)**

**2.** Let your kindness comfort me/ according to your promise to your servants./ Let your compassion come to me/ that I may live, for your law is my delight. **(R)**

**3.** For I love your commands/ more than gold, however fine./ For in all your precepts I go forward;/ every false way I hate. **(R)**

**4.** Wonderful are your decrees;/ therefore I observe them./ The revelation of your words sheds

light,/ giving understanding to the simple. (R)

## Second Reading (Rom 8:28–30)

*God ordains everything, including painful and difficult moments, for the good of those who love him. This love should inspire us to be open and obedient to the will of the Father for us.*

## A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

—The word of the Lord.

**All—Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** (Cf. Mt 11:25) (*Stand*)

**All—Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Mt 13:44–52)

**P—**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**All—Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS SAID to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore

and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”

“Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

—The Gospel of the Lord.

**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily** (*Sit*)

**Profession of Faith** (*Stand*)

**All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father**

**and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**P—**God our Father has given us the gift of faith as a treasure and a pearl of great price. Let us continue to cherish this gift and share it with people around us by living up to the demands of our faith. Let us pray:

**R—Father, reveal to us the mysteries of your kingdom.**

**C—**That Pope Francis, and all Church leaders may work tirelessly toward making the kingdom of heaven permeate and be proclaimed to all nations and people, we pray: (R)

**C—**May we hold to our faith and values and see them as true and lasting treasures, and not be seduced by the passing joys of power, prestige, and pleasure, we pray: (R)

**C—**May the leaders of nations work for prosperity and progress without forgetting human dignity and the Gospels’ values, we pray: (R)

**C—**That all missionaries around the world joyfully share their talents and possessions at the service of the people, especially the poor, the sick, and the needy, we pray: (R)

**C—**That those who have died, especially missionaries, may at last find their “pearl of great price” in the heavenly kingdom and attain eternal peace with you, O God, we pray: (R)

**C—**Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: (R)

**P—**Loving Father, reveal to us



the mysteries of your Kingdom.  
Let your kingdom come to and  
through us.

Grant this through Christ  
our Lord.

All—Amen.



**Presentation of the Gifts**  
*(Stand)*

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the  
sacrifice at your hands for the  
praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of  
all his holy Church.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

P—Accept, O Lord, we pray,  
the offerings which we bring  
from the abundance of your  
gifts, that through the powerful  
working of your grace these  
most sacred mysteries may  
sanctify our present way of life  
and lead us to eternal gladness.

Through Christ our Lord.  
All—Amen.

**Preface** *(Ordinary Time VI)*

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the  
Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give  
you thanks, Lord, holy Father,  
almighty and eternal God.

For in you we live and  
move and have our being, and  
while in this body we not only  
experience the daily effects of  
your care, but even now possess  
the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first  
fruits of the Spirit, through whom  
you raised up Jesus from the  
dead, we hope for an everlasting  
share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels,  
we praise you, as in joyful  
celebration, we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord  
God of hosts. Heaven and  
earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Setting the GOLD standard in PILGRIMAGES*

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**Blessed is he who comes in  
the name of the Lord. Hosanna  
in the highest.** *(Kneel)*

**Acclamation** *(Stand)*

All—When we eat this Bread  
and drink this Cup, we  
proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

**THE COMMUNION RITE**

**The Lord's Prayer**

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.

**Invitation to Peace**

**Invitation to Communion**  
*(Kneel)*

P—Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away  
the sins of the world. Blessed  
are those called to the supper  
of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under  
my roof, but only say the  
word and my soul shall be  
healed.

**Communion Antiphon**  
(Ps 103 [102]:2)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and  
never forget all his benefits.

**Prayer after Communion**  
*(Stand)*

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

We have consumed, O  
Lord, this divine Sacrament,  
the perpetual memorial of the  
Passion of your Son; grant,  
we pray, that this gift, which  
he himself gave us with love  
beyond all telling, may profit  
us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.  
All—Amen.

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P—The Lord be with you.  
All—And with your spirit.

**Prayer over the People**

P—Bow down for the blessing.  
*(Pause)*

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that the Christian people may  
understand the truths they  
profess and love the heavenly  
liturgy in which they participate.  
All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of  
almighty God, the Father, and  
the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain  
with you for ever.

All—Amen.

**Dismissal**

P—Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
All—Thanks be to God.